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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/657,956	09/08/2000	Eva Prpic	JP920000170US1	1771
7590 01/04/2005 International Business Machines Corporation Almaden Research Center 650 Harry Road San Jose, CA 95120			EXAMINER ZHONG, CHAD	
			ART UNIT 2152	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Appli cation No.

09/657,956

Applicant(s)

PRPIC ET AL.

Examiner

Chad Zhong

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication app ars on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

OFFICE ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Appeal Brief, filed on 10/21/2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, second paragraph

2. Claim 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a. The following terms lack antecedent basis:

i. said Immigration Authority – claim 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 2, 4-5, 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over “validating and using your pass”, 1996, (hereinafter Pass), in view of “Travelocity”, 1999, (hereinafter Travelocity), in view of “Public Transportation”, 1999 (hereinafter Vatican), in further view of ‘Official Notice’.

6. As per claims 1 and 5, Pass teaches a method of accrediting participants to an event, said method comprising the steps of:

c) producing a non-valid pass for each of said participants (pg 1, paragraphs 1-2, wherein the pre-purchased passes are not valid until validated at the time of travel);

d) issuing the respective non-valid passes to said participants (pg 1, paragraphs 1-2);

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e) upon arrival of such a participant at, or proximate an event venue, validating said non-valid pass for the participant, thereby accrediting said participant (pg 2, paragraph 3, wherein the validation occurs as the validation attendant validate the pass with your current status information in the pass port),

7. Pass does not explicitly teach:

- a) collecting information from each of said participants;
- b) recording the information in an accreditation system;

8. Travelocity teaches:

- a) collecting information from each of said participants (pg 2-3);
- b) recording the information in an accreditation system (pg 2-3, wherein the tickets can be purchased online, during the online purchase, personal information are given and are recorded in the accreditation system prior to receiving the tickets);

9. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of invention was made to combine the teaching of Pass and Travelocity because they both dealing with transportation systems.

Furthermore, the teaching of Travelocity to allow

- a) collecting information from each of said participants;
- b) recording the information in an accreditation system;

would improve the security for Pass's system by collecting user information prior to issuing the pass to

user, allowing the accreditation system to track which user purchased tickets in the accreditation system to prevent

10. Pass and Travelocity does not explicitly teach:

updating an accreditation status of the participant in the accreditation system.

11. Vatican teaches:

updating an accreditation status of the participant in the accreditation system (pg 1, line 20 – pg 2, line 7, wherein the validation machines keep track of accreditation status of participant).

12. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of invention was made to combine the teaching of Pass, Travelocity, and Vatican because they all deal with transportation systems. Furthermore, the teaching of Travelocity to allow

updating an accreditation status of the participant in the accreditation system would improve the security for Pass's system by updating user information to make sure the information stays current, allowing the accreditation system to continually track which user purchased tickets.

13. Pass does not teach securing the pass in a security pouch, however 'Official Notice' is taken by the Examiner that both the concept and advantages of providing for a security pouch is well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a security pouch with Fairfield because it would provide for protection against elements as well as external tampering of the pass.

14. As per claim 2, Pass teaches the method of claim 1, comprising the further step of:
upon arrival of each participant, verifying information of said participant before said non-valid pass is validated (pg 1, paragraphs 1-3).

15. As per claims 4 and 7, Pass teaches ascribing an accreditation class to each of said participants; and ascribing privileges to each of said accreditation classes (see for example, pg 1, paragraphs 1-3, wherein the classes themselves are extended brackets for the period valid traveling time on the trip, the privileges refers to the length of travel time, or the length of time wherein the pass is valid while using the transportation system).

16. As per claim 8, Pass does not teach wherein said system is a distributed system

comprising interconnected servers and workstations. However, "Official Notice" is taken by the examiner that both the concept and advantages of providing for a security pouch is well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of invention to include a series of servers and workstations in a distributed manner because doing so would provide efficiency for the Immigration's system, operating as an automated network oriented architecture.

17. As per claim 9 and 10, Pass teaches wherein the non-valid passes issued to the participants form a first portion of a valid pass (pg 1, paragraphs 1-3) and the participants are associated with organizations (wherein the organizations is a group of travelers, for instance a family unit comprising of at least two people), and wherein the method of comprises the steps of:

producing non-valid passes by the accreditation system for said organizations, wherein such a non-valid pass for an organization forms a second portion of a valid pass (pg 1, paragraphs 1-3);
and

issuing the non-valid passes to said organizations, so that the organizations may distribute the second portions to selected ones of the participants associated with the respective organizations, wherein the validating in step e) uses both the first and second portions of the pass (pg 1, paragraphs 1-3, wherein the first portion is distributed in advance, and the real validated pass will combine the original invalid pass along with information which will make the pass valid).

18. Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "validating and using your pass", (hereinafter Pass), in view of "Travelocity", 1999, (hereinafter Travelocity), in view of "Public Transportation", 1999 (hereinafter Vatican), in view of De La Rue "Angolan National Identity Solution" (hereinafter De la Rue), 1999, in further view of "Travel Agents", 1997, (hereinafter Travel).

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19. As per claims 3 and 6, Pass, Travelocity , and Vatican does not teach the method for foreign participants

and before arrival of participants, sending a bulk request to an Immigration Authority, and

receiving a status from said department, allowing said validated pass to serve as a form of entry

20. De la Rue teaches wherein sending a visa request to immigration authority and receiving a visa status from said immigration department, allowing said validated pass to serve as a visa (paragraph 1-3).

21. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of invention was made to combine the teaching of Pass, Travelocity , Vatican and De la Rue because they both dealing with validation

process prior to entry to an area. Furthermore, the teaching of De la Rue to sending a visa request to immigration authority and receiving a visa status from said immigration department, allowing said validated pass to serve as a visa would expand the functionality for Fairfield's system by expanding the authentication and validation technique at the immigration check points, moreover, Pass is part of European Rail system, participating European countries allows for freedom of travel in between them, much like that of the system in De La Rue.

22. Pass, Travelocity , Vatican and De La Rue does not explicitly teach the bulk request to Immigration Authority prior to arrival of participants.

23. Travel teaches

~~the bulk request to Immigration Authority prior to arrival of participants (pg 1, Sun Travel Agency, line 3).~~

24. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of invention was made to combine the teaching of Pass, Travelocity , Vatican, De la Rue, and Travel because they all deal with travel. Furthermore, the teaching of Travel to allow

the bulk request to Immigration Authority prior to arrival of participants would expand the functionality for system by expanding the authentication and validation technique at the immigration check points, moreover, Pass is part of Pass, Travelocity , Vatican, De la Rue's system by requesting bulk visa orders with immigration offices prior to departure of the travelers.

Conclusion

25. Applicant's remarks filed 3/19/2004 have been considered but are in moot of the new grounds at rejection necessitated by Examiner reopening of prosecution.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents and publications are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to "Accreditation of Personnel".

- | | | |
|-------|--------------|------------------|
| i. | US 6,035,280 | Christensen. |
| ii. | US 4,882,779 | Rahtgen. |
| iii. | US 5,841,886 | Rhoads. |
| iv. | US 6,408,331 | Rhoads. |
| v. | US 6,456,984 | Demoff et al. |
| vi. | US 5,737,701 | Rosenthal et al. |
| vii. | US 6,129,275 | Urquhart et al. |
| viii. | US 4,851,651 | Gaucher. |
| ix. | US 5,949,046 | Kenneth et al. |
| x. | US 6,636,833 | Flitcroft et al. |
| xi. | US 5,548,106 | Liang et al. |

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- xii. "DE LA RUE GIVES SINGAPORE THE 'MIDIS' TOUCH Singapore Immigration & Registration Department Chooses De La Rue Identity Systems to Provide Automated Passport Production System" Dec. 02, 1998
- xiii. "Cards & Personal Identification Technical Committee" July, 2000.
- xiv. US 2002/0070863 Brooking.
- xv. "Armed Services Commissary Regulations" (ASCR), James L. Elmer August 3, 1990.
- xvi. "European Committee for Banking Standards", January 1996.
- xvii. "Meal Card Program", Air Force Instruction 34-241, November 1, 1997.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Zhong whose telephone number is (571)272-3946. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:15 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BURGESS, GLENTON B can be reached on (571)272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CZ

December 7, 2004


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